

# FUTURES MASTERCLASS: FORESIGHT TO POLICY



Apply futures thinking to public policy and learn about its importance in the policy cycle and strategic planning process



Learn how to use the Scenario Planning methodology, as well as other Foresight tools that augment it



Explore and work on real-world Futures challenges through guided group coaching sessions

Policy makers face a world of ever-increasing disruptions. Whenever something 'unexpected' occurs, we often regret we were not able to predict it and were caught unprepared. But was it really unexpected? Sometimes, the issue was a known unknown, things we were aware of but didn't understand the impact or implications of. Sometimes, the issue was an unknown known, perhaps an individual or collective assumption that turned out to no longer hold but other stakeholders saw a different view. Sometimes, it is just wilful blindness, the refusal to see an obvious issue. Making better long-term decisions is not about predictions per se but getting better at gathering strategic intelligence about the future on the one hand and managing and preparing stakeholders for change on the other to take action in the present for a better future.

Organisations and institutions operating in a complex world must be able to contend with uncertainty and start asking critical questions: What if X happens? How will it impact my organisation? Are we ready to face it? **Futures Masterclass: Foresight to Policy** intends to help you find the answers.

The aim of the four-week programme is to provide you with the tools you need to make sense of multiple futures and to take action in the present to deal with the possible futures that you may have to deal with. Futures Thinking aims at enhancing your capacity to anticipate change in complex environments, surface hidden assumptions, and explore alternative futures.

The Masterclass will take you through the scenario planning methodology and show you how to apply these theoretical concepts to futures projects. The online course complements the traditional teaching component with a practice-oriented experience. You will have a chance to work with a team to bring your real-life problems to the 'classroom' and learn how to tackle them using strategic foresight.

Attending the programme in teams will stimulate broader conversations on the topics and promote a collaborative approach to the specific challenges of your organisation. Working in small teams will also make it easier for you to consider the problem under different perspectives and effectively brainstorm potential solutions.



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